

**Amendments to the Claims**

Please amend Claims 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, and 18. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

**Claim Listing**

1. (Canceled).

2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently Amended) A microscope slide stainer comprising:

a plurality of slide cavities into which at least one microscope slide is slides are inserted, said housing having a cavity and into which liquids are dispensed, [[the]] each cavity also containing a sufficient volume [[of]] for liquid to cover the at least one a microscope slide;

a liquid dispenser including an orifice from which liquid drops into [[the]] each cavity, said orifice and each cavity being capable of relative movement between each other under microprocessor control so as to align the dispenser with a slide selected cavity; and

a liquid aspirator, said aspirator being capable of removing liquid from the selected cavity.

4. (Currently Amended) A microscope slide stainer as claimed in claim 3 further comprising a slide carrier capable of moving the slide that is contained in the slide housing selected cavity.

5. (Currently Amended) A microscope slide stainer as claimed in claim 4, further comprising a heater capable of heating the slide that is contained in the slide housing selected cavity.

6. (Previously Presented) A microscope slide stainer as claimed in claim 5 wherein the heating element is adjacent to the slide.

7. (Currently Amended) A microscope slide stainer as claimed in claim 4, further comprising a pressurized rinse bottle from which rinse fluid is dispensed into the cavity of said ~~slide housing~~ selected cavity.

8. (Currently Amended) A microscope slide stainer as claimed in claim 3, further comprising a heater capable of heating the slide that is contained in the ~~slide housing~~ selected cavity.

9. (Previously Presented) A microscope slide stainer as claimed in claim 8 wherein the heating element is adjacent to the slide.

10. (Currently Amended) A microscope slide stainer as claimed in claim 3, wherein the liquid aspirator comprises:

a vacuum bottle;  
a vacuum hose extending from the vacuum bottle; and  
a vacuum hose transport mechanism for bringing the end of the vacuum hose to the selected cavity-in the slide housing.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of staining slides comprising:

inserting a slide into ~~a slide housing~~ one of a plurality of slide cavities, ~~said housing having a cavity~~ into which liquids can be dispensed, [[the]] each cavity containing a sufficient volume [[of]] for liquid to cover the at least one microscope slide;

moving either the ~~cavity of the slide housing~~ slide cavities or an orifice of a liquid dispenser, from which liquid drops into the ~~cavity~~ slide cavities, in a lateral direction relative to each other under microprocessor control into alignment to align the orifice with a slide in a selected one of the plurality of slide cavities;

dispensing liquid into the selected cavity of said housing through the orifice, said liquid also contacting said slide; and

aspirating liquid from the selected cavity of said housing.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the liquid is aspirated from the selected cavity of said housing by extending a vacuum hose to the selected cavity and collecting the liquid into a vacuum bottle.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising heating the slide contained in the ~~slide housing~~ selected cavity.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising heating the slide contained in the ~~slide housing~~ selected cavity.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising moving a slide that is contained in a ~~slide housing~~ selected cavity.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising adding rinse fluid from a pressurized rinse bottle.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of moving the ~~slide housing~~ cavities and a liquid aspirator relative to each other prior to aspirating liquid from the selected cavity of said housing.

18. (Currently Amended) A microscope slide stainer as claimed in claim 3 wherein the ~~slide housing~~ cavities and liquid aspirator are capable of relative movement under micropressor control so as to align the aspirator with a slide in a selected one of the plurality of slide cavities.